

the Declaration and its so-called present meaning.

This is why we have given so much notice to this matter. The presiding authorities of the Church feel that it is of the utmost importance that the Saints should have a correct understanding of the questions involved in this trial. It is not a matter of persons, it is a matter of principle and pertains to truth, which is of greater importance than any man or number of men. It is a duty enjoined upon the Church authorities by the Almighty to see that no wrong doctrine or wrong principles prevail in the Church—and wherever an attempt is made to create false impressions among the people it is the bounden duty of the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles under their direction to labor for the correction, uprooting and removal of everything of the kind. These labors are frequently painful and unpleasant, but it cannot be a matter of obloquy with them—a solemn duty is laid upon them and made obligatory, and they cannot escape it.

Our references to Brother Thatcher in this article must be considered in this spirit; for they are in the sincerest friendship for him and with the still greater desire for the welfare of the whole Church. They are especially called forth by the regrettable fact that the Journal, which is published and circulates in that part of the country where Brother Thatcher is best and most widely known, is doing him, perhaps unintentionally, a grievous injury by putting him in a wrong attitude before those whose fellowship and love he is desirous to retain.

A ROUGH DIPLOMATIC DIAMOND.

The right kind of a consul for Uncle Sam to have on his payroll appears to be a Democrat of Illinois, James H. Madden by name, who represents this great and glorious Republic at Smyrna in the Turkish empire. The Chicago News has an article telling of some of Mr. Madden's exploits and methods. These are so different from those of the usual diplomat, who considers his duty performed if he draws his pay regularly and crooks his legs occasionally under the mahogany belonging to the dignitary to whom he is accredited, that their recital is interesting. Nor can the narrative be deemed altogether unprofitable as an example in view of the fact that right here in our midst are a number of aspirants for consular or ministerial honors in places where they cannot speak their mother tongue and where they will be spared the annoyance of meeting many people who have previously known them.

Mr. Madden is peculiar to consuls from the fact that whenever an occasion arises in which he feels justified in making a demand upon the local authorities he does not wait until he can report the matter to Washington and get instructions, with warnings to enforce them, but he goes at it himself. What is more, he has invariably succeeded. His first conflict with the Turkish authorities was regarding several boxes of clothing sent from this

country for distribution in the interior among the destitute people. The officials refused to pass the boxes and demanded full information as to their exact contents. The urgency that existed for the immediate distribution of the clothing made the delay vexatious to the missionaries and they appealed to Mr. Madden for assistance. He responded at once and appeared before the officials in a tower of raven and, although the missionaries admit that "he swore at the Turks out of all proportion to the occasion," he secured the prompt release of the clothing and its deliverance to the distributors. The reports say "this was done to the amazement of the bystanders, without remonstrance from the Ottoman officials, who could not have made Madden understand if they had talked to him."

On another occasion he figured in a still more entertaining manner. A Turk who had been in this country and become a naturalized citizen returned to Smyrna. For some petty offense he was arrested and cast into jail, when he claimed the protection of the American consul and got it with a vengeance. Mr. Madden went to the Turkish authorities and demanded the release of the prisoner or his immediate trial. The Turkish officials took no notice of the demand, when Mr. Madden made a second visit to the jail and notified the officer in charge that if the prisoner was not tried, or released, within two days he would come down and release him from jail himself. At the end of the time set by the consul the prisoner was untied and still in jail. The consul procured the services of a stalwart attendant, arming himself with a sledge hammer, he visited the jail, broke down the door and let the prisoner go free. It is said that Mr. Madden uses language in these little differences with the Turks that would not sound well in an address to a Sunday school convention or a diplomatic dinner, but it is conceded that the Turkish officials at Smyrna are in a condition of terror when Mr. Madden appears and begins his extemporaneous speech to them. They do not understand what he says, but they are in such fear of him that he does about as he pleases.

Of course there is such a thing as carrying this sturdy sort of vigor too far in diplomacy, but there is a rare old flavor of Americanism about it that leaves a good taste in the mouths of Mr. Madden's countrymen. It would seem to be a right good sort of man to keep in Turkey permanently with a roving commission to operate in as many parts of the Sultan's dominions as necessity may require.

CHRISTIANITY, NOT COMPLEXION.

The dispatches two or three days ago told of a colored parson in Rockford, Illinois, who during a year's service had raised \$1,000 to apply on the church debt, had drawn for the same period a salary of \$175, and was now speeding his vacation as a common laborer with a gang of colored men employed in a big job of excavating, receiving \$2 per day. If the employ-

ment lasts beyond the brief time allowed him for a summer rest from his religious duties, he will endeavor to keep both postions, thus ministering to the spiritual needs of his flock without burdening them for his temporal support.

Reverend Lewis F. Dixon, for such is his name, deserves more than passing praise from all who believe in true Christianity. No matter what the color of his skin is, his heart is all right. In earnest unselfishness he far overtops the balance of the palefaced clericals of his town, who are away at the mountains or seashore at the expense of their devoted congregations, and who by neither word nor act extended the least help to him when he found his little church and flock were discouraged and not prospering owing to their debt and poverty.

The world today needs more ministers of his stripe of practicality. It is the reproach of the cloth that its wearers are open to the charge of preaching for hire and divining for money. Their willingness to accept a "call" to this or that field of labor is to be measured by the salary and perquisites offered from the respective localities. It is a condition inevitably leading to irreligion and infidelity, for which the pastors themselves are largely responsible. Haste off to Reverend Mr. Dixon, and may the number of those who have an equal amount of sturdy self-reliance and unselfishness never grow less!

SLAVERY IN CALIFORNIA.

The circulation of a petition in San Francisco, asking the United States government to abolish slavery in California, calls attention to a most lamentable condition. Whatever could be said of negro slavery, it could not be worse than that against which a protest is now being raised, viz, the holding in abject slavery of Chinese women for immoral purposes. The traffic in this outrageous business is carried on in a semi-public manner, and the poor human creatures who are its victims are consigned to an awful fate, without present hope for relief from laws in a country that proclaims liberty to all its people, in the enjoyment of freedom from involuntary servitude.

The charge of practical slavery in California is not one made by enemies of the state or its people, but proceeds from the inhabitants themselves, whose protests do not seem to avail, and who desire the general government to take action. Here is a description of the situation there, as presented in the Sacramento Record-Union:

As a matter of fact slavery does exist in California; it thrives beneath the very eyes of state, city and federal officials, and very little effort is made by either to crush it out. Indeed it is scarcely forbidden by officials, while it is a shameful and notorious fact that sworn and qualified officers of the peace, whose duty it is to enforce the laws and report their infraction, are under salary to the slave drivers to stand guard over the human chattels and prevent either their escape or rescue.

The petition referred to emanates